

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 TRSE-00 AGR-05 SWF-01

SR-02 ORM-01 /081 W

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P R 020950Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2433

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY GENEVA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON SOCI SO

SUBJECT: SOMALI GOVT DECLARATION ON DROUGHT

REF: A) MOGADISCIO 1757 B) MOGADISCIO 1722

1. SUMMARY: GSDR DECEMBER 1 (THREE DAYS AFTER PRESIDENT'S RETURN FROM MONTH-LONG FOREIGN TRIP) ISSUED FORMAL DECLARATION STATING SEVERE DROUGHT EXISTS, IMPOSING EMERGENCY CONDITIONS, CALLING FOR MOBILIZATION "ALL FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCES THAT COULD BE RAISED INTERNALLY AND EXTERNALLY", AND ALLOCATING IMMEDIATE SUM OF 150 MILLION SHILLINGS (APPROXIMATELY 24 MILLION US DOLLARS) TO MEET COSTS OF RELIEF CAMPS AND SUBSIDIZE ESSENTIAL FOOD IMPORTS. VP ABOKAR, A NORTHERNERWHO HAS BEEN URGING PROMPT ACTION TO MEET DROUGHT, WAS MADE HEAD OF A WATCHDOG COMMITTEE TO MONITOR OPERATIONS OF DROUGHT RELIEF OPERATIONS CONDUCTED BY NATIONAL ORGANIZATION HEADED BY VP CULMIE. WE EXPECT SOMALI DRIVE FOR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO CONTINUE, BUT WHETHER THEY REQUEST US HELP WILL PROBABLY

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DEPEND ON WHAT LUCK THEY HAVE FROM ARAB AND OTHER "FRIENDLY"

SOURCES. END SUMMARY.

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2. FOLLOWING EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS OF SRC AND COUNCIL OF STATE SECRETARIES NOV. 29 AND 30, GSDR ISSUED FORMAL DECLARATION ON DROUGHT DEC. 1. TEXT OF DECLARATION WAS PUBLISHED SOMALI ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWS BULLETIN, DEC. 2. DECLARATION WAS WIDELY REPEATED ON RADIO MOGADISCIO DEC. 1 AND APPEARED ON FRONT PAGE OKTOBAR STAR DEC. 2.

3. FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS DESCRIBE MOST IMPORTANT POINTS CONTAINED IN DROUGHT DECLARATION.

4. GSDR DECLARES SEVERE DROUGHT CONDITIONS EXIST IN MOST OF SOMALIA AND WILL SOON EXTEND THROUGHOUT ENTIRE COUNTRY AS WELL AS QTE ADJACENT SOMALI-INHABITED AREAS UNQTE.

5. GSDR THUS HAS DECIDED TO A) IMPOSE EMERGENCY CONDITIONS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY AND DURATION OF DROUGHT. B) SPARE NO EFFORTS OR RESOURCES TO SAVE LIVES AND LIVESTOCK IN AFFECTED AREAS BY ESTABLISHMENT RELIEF CAMPS, BY EXTENDING ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS NOT IN CAMPS AND BY MAINTAINING IMPORT SUBSIDIES ON ESSENTIAL FOOD COMMODITIES TO HOLD THEIR RETAIL PRICES TO PRESENT LEVEL. C) PLAN FOR FUTURE REHABILITATION OF PEOPLE IN RELIEF CAMPS AND AFFECTED AREAS. D) "MOBILIZE ALL FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCES THAT COULD BE RAISED INTERNALLY AND EXTERNALLY". E) ALLOCATE 150 MILLION SHILLINGS (APPROX \$US 24 MIL) IN GSDR FUNDS TO MEET COSTS OF RELIEF CAMPS AND IMPORT SBSIDIES.

6. IN ORGANIZING DROUGHT OPERATION, GSDR HAS ESTABLISHED CENTRAL RELIEF COMMITTEE (CRC) CHAIRED BY SRC FIRST VP TO INCLUDE EXISTING RELIEF CAMP, VILLAGE, DISTRICT AND REGIONAL SPECIAL COMMITTEES. ORGANIZATION IDENTICAL TO AND WILL BE MERGED WITH EXISTING RURAL DEVELOPMENT CAMPAIGN STRUCTURE.

7. CRC WILL BE ASSISTED BY TWO SPECIAL OFFICES: DROUGHT OPERATION OFFICE WILL TACKLE OPERATIONAL TASKS (I.E., RECEIPT, STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION OF FOODS, MEDICINES, FUEL, ETC.,) WHILE RESEARCH AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REHABILITATION OFFICE WILL COLLECT DROUGHT DATA AND QUANTIFY EFFECTS ON NATIONAL ECONOMY, AND PLAN REHABILITATION EFFORT.

8. WATCHDOG COMMITTEE HEADED BY SRC 3 RD VP (ABOKAR) HAS ALSO BEEN ESTABLISHED TO MONITOR EFFECTIVENESS OF ENTIRE OPERATION.

9. GSDR APPEALS TO ALL SOMALIS TO PARTICIPATE IN DROUGHT RELIEF AND TO KEEP PEACE IN THOSE AREAS SWOLLEN BY INFLUX

OF REFUGEES AND LIVESTOCK. PROMISES TO REWARD ALL THOSE WHO ASSIST COUNTRY IN ITS STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL AND TO PUNISH THOSE WHO BETRAY NATION.

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10. COMMENT: SPEED WITH WHICH GSDR DECLARATION ISSUED FOLLOWING SIAD'S RETURN FROM WEST AFRICA INDICATES THAT DROUGHT PROBLEM, RATHER THAN ETHIOPIAN SITUATION (MOGADISH O 1753), WAS PRINCIPAL FACTOR IN SRG REQUEST THAT HE RETURN. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SRC 3RD VP ABOKAR FELT THAT EMERGENCY DECLARATION SHOULD HAVE BEEN MADE SOME WEEKS AGO BUT SRC MEMBERS WERE UNWILLING TO TAKE INITIATIVE WHILE SIAD REMAINED ABROAD. NOTEWORTHY THAT ABOKAR, WHOSE FELLOW TRIBESMEN HAVE BEEN GREATLY AFFECTED BY DROUGHT, WAS NAMED TO HEAD WATCHDOG COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE GSDR EMERGENCY EFFORTS. EFFORTS TO COPE WITH DROUGHT WILL BE FACILITATED BY DECISION TO USE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE SET UP LAST SUMMER FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT CAMPAIGN, AS THIS HAS RECEIVED TOP PRIORITY AND IS IN PLACE EVEN IN REMOTE AREAS.

11. US \$ 24 MILLION WHICH GSDR HAS COMMITTED TO FINANCE EMERGENCY PROGRAM IS SOME US \$ 26 MILLION SHY OF FINANCIAL HELP GSDR ESTIMATED WOULD BE REQUIRED TO BANKROLL DROUGHT RELIEF THROUGH 1975 HARVEST. DECLARATION SUGGESTS THAT CAMPAIGN FOR ADDITIONAL FOREIGN ASSISTANCE WILL CONTINUE. NO ONE -- INCLUDING UNDP -- SEEMS TO KNOW HOW MUCH FOREIGN EXCHANGE GSDR HAS IN HAND AT PRESENT AS A RESULT OF CASH DELIVERIES ON ARAB COMMITMENTS.
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